



DECEMBER 2, 2023



AUDRA
McDONALD
in Concert

performances
MAGAZINE

SCAN TO BECOME AN LAO INSIDER



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Audra McDonald in concert

Andy Einhorn

MUSIC DIRECTOR AND CONDUCTOR

Jeremy Jordan

PIANO

Gene Lewin

DRUMS

Mark Vanderpoel

BASS

with the LA Opera Orchestra

There will be one 20-minute intermission.

Piano graciously provided by Yamaha.

Audra McDonald appears by arrangement with Alec Treuhaft, LLC.

Stage Manager: Barbara Donner

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performances
MAGAZINE

Audra McDonald

SOLOIST



From: Fresno, California.

LA Opera: Jenny in *Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny* (2007, debut); concerts in 2013 and 2018.

About: Audra McDonald is unparalleled in the breadth and versatility of her artistry as both a singer and an actor. The winner of a record-breaking six

Tony Awards, two Grammy Awards and an Emmy, in 2015 she was named one of *Time* magazine's 100 most influential people and received the National Medal of Arts—America's highest honor for achievement in the field—from President Barack Obama. In addition to her Tony-winning performances in *Carousel*, *Master Class*, *Ragtime*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess* and *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill*—the role that also served as the vehicle for her Olivier Award-nominated 2017 debut in London's West End—she has appeared on Broadway in *The Secret Garden*, *Marie Christine* (Tony nomination), *Henry IV*, *110 in the Shade* (Tony nomination), *Shuffle Along*, or, *The Making of the Musical Sensation of 1921 and All That Followed*, *Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune* (Tony nomination) and *Ohio State Murders* (Tony nomination).

On television, she was seen by millions as the Mother Abbess in NBC's *The Sound of Music Live!*, won an Emmy Award for her role as host of PBS's *Live from Lincoln Center*, and received Emmy nominations for *Wit*, *A Raisin in the Sun* and *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill*. Having played Dr. Naomi Bennett on Shonda Rhimes's *Private Practice* (ABC) and Liz Reddick (formerly Lawrence) on both *The Good Wife* (CBS) and *The Good Fight* (Paramount+), she may now be seen as Dorothy Scott on Julian Fellowes's *The Gilded Age* (HBO). On film, she has appeared in *Seven Servants*, *The Object of My Affection*, *Cradle Will Rock*, *It Runs in the Family*, *The Best Thief in the World*, *She Got Problems*, *Rampart*, *Ricki and the Flash*, Disney's live-action *Beauty and the Beast*, the movie-musical *Hello Again*, Cinergistik's documentary *Whitney Houston in Focus*, the Obamas' Higher Ground Productions' *Rustin* and MGM's Aretha Franklin biopic, *Respect*.

McDonald is a Juilliard-trained soprano, whose opera credits include Poulenc's *La voix humaine* and Michael John LaChiusa's *Send* at Houston Grand Opera, and *Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny* at LA Opera, where the resulting recording earned her two Grammy Awards. She has issued five solo albums on the Nonesuch label

as well as *Sing Happy* with the New York Philharmonic on Decca Gold. She also maintains a major career as a concert artist, regularly appearing on the great stages of the world and with leading international orchestras. She is a founding member of Black Theatre United, a board member of Covenant House International and a prominent advocate for LGBTQIA+ rights, whose favorite roles are those performed offstage, as an activist, wife to actor Will Swenson, and mother.



Andy Einhorn

MUSIC DIRECTOR AND CONDUCTOR

From: Houston, Texas.

LA Opera: Audra McDonald concerts in 2013 and 2018.

About: A leading Broadway music director and conductor, Andy Einhorn recently served as the music supervisor and musical director for the Broadway productions of *Hello, Dolly!* starring Bette Midler (Grammy nomination for the cast recording) and *Carousel* starring Renée Fleming (Grammy nomination for the cast recording). His previous Broadway music directing and conducting credits include *Holiday Inn*, *Woody Allen's Bullets Over Broadway*, *Rodgers + Hammerstein's Cinderella*, *Brief Encounter* and *Sondheim on Sondheim*. Other Broadway work includes *Evita* and *The Light in the Piazza*.

Since 2011, Einhorn has served as music director and pianist for six-time Tony Award winner Audra McDonald, performing with her at such prestigious orchestras and venues including the New York Philharmonic, Boston Pops at Tanglewood, Philadelphia Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony, National Symphony Orchestra, Cleveland Orchestra at Blossom, Cincinnati Pops, Chicago Symphony at Ravinia, LA Opera, Carnegie Hall, Walt Disney Concert Hall and a series of recorded concerts with Sydney Symphony at the Sydney Opera House in Australia. He most recently made his debut at New York City Center. They have recorded two albums together: *Sing Happy: Live with the New York Philharmonic* and *Go Back Home*.

He served as the music director for HBO's Peabody Award winning documentary *Six by Sondheim* and music supervisor for the *Great Performances* Peabody Award-winning special *Broadway Musicals: A Jewish Legacy* on PBS. In 2019, Einhorn conducted Bette Midler and Marc Shaiman at the 2019 Academy Awards. He also supervised music and appeared on camera for the Emmy award winning performance of *Eat Sh*t Bob* for HBO's *Last Week Tonight* starring John Oliver. Upcoming film and TV projects include Apple TV+'s *Extrapolations* and *Cabrini*.



Jeremy Jordan

PIANO

From: Chicago, Illinois.

LA Opera: debut.

About: Critically acclaimed, "a clear technical virtuoso", "a rare talent", and "a true Wunderkind," Jeremy Jordan burst onto the music scene at the age of nine, playing Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 1 in a live televised performance. Jordan was born into a musical family where his mother and father were his first instructors. They ensured that his burgeoning talent was nurtured by providing a strong foundation in classical training and also encouraged his study of improvised music and composition.

Jordan went on to appear on the acclaimed radio program *From the Top* and *From the Top: Live from Carnegie Hall* performing Liszt. Since then, Jordan has made his solo Carnegie Hall debut performing Chopin, Liszt, Schubert and Wagner. After winning the 2006 Steinway Concerto Competition playing the Prokofiev Piano Concerto No. 1, Jordan delivered acclaimed performances with the Ars Viva Symphony Orchestra and concerto performances and recordings with the Chicago Sinfonietta and the Czech National Symphony Orchestra.

Following studies at The Juilliard School, Jordan received undergraduate and graduate degrees on the Van Cliburn and Irene Diamond scholarships. Acclaimed for his virtuosic deliveries of his Liszt/Horowitz, Wagner, and Saint-Saens transcriptions, Jordan has also performed to thunderous applause in appearances at the United Nations Arts Council, the American Liszt Society, Concertgebouw, Tokyo Opera City, Prague's Rudolfinum, and Chicago's Ravinia Festival. He has appeared as a chamber musician in tours throughout North America, Europe, and Japan.

Jordan continues to compose solo piano music, chamber music, orchestral music and electronic music. His compositions have premiered at Seattle's Emerald City Music Festival, New York's National Sawdust, and Ireland's Sounds from a Safe Harbour.



Gene Lewin

DRUMS

From: Princeton, New Jersey. **LA Opera:** Audra McDonald concerts in 2013, 2018 and 2023.

About: Gene Lewin appears on 38 CDs, with several more soon to be released. His eclectic discography ranges from the modern jazz of Fundementia to the electric-violin pop of GrooveLily. Several jazz and theater projects, and

singer-songwriter efforts round out the list. Gene played drums, sang and composed for GrooveLily, a trio that was together for 20 years and toured extensively in the U.S. and Canada. While they morphed through many different musical scenes (and hair styles), they eventually became focused on creating hybrid musical theater; performances that feel both like concert and story. The band's credits in this area include a production of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (directed by Tina Landau), *Striking 12* and the autobiographical show *Wheelhouse*.

Gene has been touring with Audra McDonald since 2005. He also performs periodically with Kelli O'Hara, Sophie B. Hawkins and many well-respected singers and instrumentalists in New York City's jazz scene. He has appeared on CDs with bassists John Patitucci and Scott Colley, guitarists Ben Monder and Steve Cardenas, jazz legend tenor saxophonist George Coleman, bassist/vocalist Jay Leonhart, and many others.

After graduating from Princeton University with a degree in electrical engineering and computer science, Gene soon changed paths and returned to school to receive a master's degree from the Manhattan School of Music in 1991. He sends love to wife Suzanne and sons Elias and Jacob.



Mark Vanderpoel

BASS

From: San Diego, California.

LA Opera: Audra McDonald concerts in 2013 and 2018.

About: He is a graduate of the University of California, San Diego, where he studied with Bertram Turetzky, and he holds a master's degree from the California Institute of the Arts. Symphonic credits include performances with the San Diego Symphony, American Symphony Orchestra, Manhattan Philharmonia and various ensembles based in the Baja California region of Mexico.

His 40+ theater credits include *Hello, Dolly!* starring Bette Midler, *Legally Blonde*, *Rogers + Hammerstein's Cinderella*, *See What I Wanna See*, *Guys and Dolls*, the PBS special *A Broadway Celebration on In Performance at the White House*, *Jane Eyre*, *Woody Allen's Bullets Over Broadway* and *An American in Paris*, among many others. His stage and sideman credits include collaborations with Audra McDonald, Kristen Chenoweth, Kelli O'Hara, Nancy Sinatra, Victoria Clark, Shirley Jones, Cliff Richard, Deborah Voigt, Sandra Bernhard, Clay Aiken, Taylor Hicks, David Johansen, Sigur Rós, Jeff Beck, Richard Klein and Andrea Bocelli, as well as appearances on *The Late Show with David Letterman* and *America's Got Talent*.

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